Tuesday, 5 July 2016

Major indigenous art exhibition opens at BRAG

Bunbury Regional Art Galleries presents Saltwater Country, a major touring exhibition of contemporary Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

Showcasing more than 50 works by 16 of Queensland’s most acclaimed Indigenous artists, this multidisciplinary exhibition features evocative images of Queensland’s coast, sand and sea and examines its cultural importance and connection to country.

Saltwater Country opens at BRAG following its successful international viewing at the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC, USA, and AAMA, Museum of Contemporary Aboriginal Art, Utrecht, The Netherlands.


The term ‘country’ has come to be understood as an all-encompassing word explaining the intrinsic nature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and creative expression as a reflection of the connection to land and place of birth. What is less known and understood is the equally strong cultural connectedness to the sea and waterways on the coastal edge and how these connections profoundly shape Indigenous cultures and identities.

Curated by Michael Aird and Virginia Rigney, Saltwater Country offers audiences a unique insight into the historical, environmental and personal concerns of the artists and their strong cultural connections to their saltwater country – Queensland’s coastline, sea and waterways.

“The saltwater country is a place of bounty and these places facilitate movement and contact, with tidal and seasonal flows structuring the rhythms of the day and the year, with dramatic times of flood and storm bringing renewal and change,” Ms Rigney said.

“The coastal edge is also currently charged with concerns over environmental change, pollution and human impact. In making artworks about these issues artists are redefining the practice of caring for this meeting point between land and sea.”

Saltwater Country is open from now until Sunday 31 July.

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